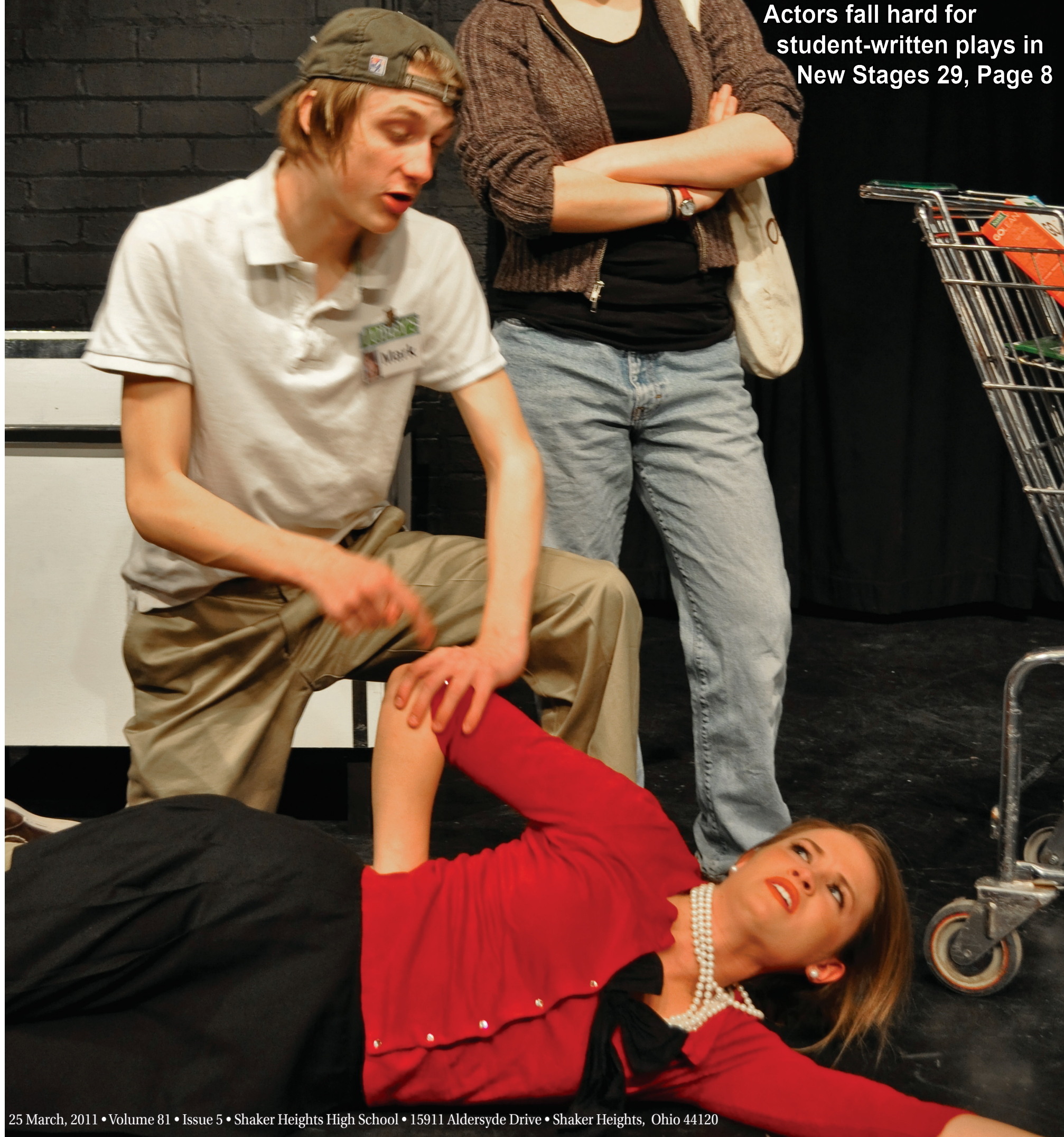


S NEW STAGES

The Shakerite

Actors fall hard for
student-written plays in
New Stages 29, Page 8





New Stages 29 debuts

All five performances of the showcase of original plays written by Shaker students sold out in a record three days before posters or any other official promotion of the event began. Couldn't get a ticket? Check out page 12 to get the scoop on all the plays.

COVER PHOTO BY GRAHAM FINE



NO WAY! A SNOW DAY? TRY 4 OF 'EM

BY JULIA SCHARFSTEIN
STAFF REPORTER

Shaker students enjoyed double the fun this winter. Double the snowball fights and sledding, double the hot chocolate, and double the coziness from a warm fire on a freezing cold day.

But despite the four miracles we experienced this year, students and teachers wonder why Superintendent Mark Freeman changed his viewpoint on snow days.

Over the years, Freeman has developed a reputation for keeping school open in the face of severe weather. In one memorable instance, Shaker was mocked by Channel 19 TV news anchors who simplified one school closing update by saying every school in Ohio was closed except Shaker.

Shaker had four snow days this year, double the amount of snow days last year. According to Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell, Shaker has averaged two to three weather related closings per year for the last four years.

"I can't think of a recent year that we have this many [snow days]," Freeman said.

Freeman closed school for the fourth day this year on Feb. 25, following two consecutive snow days on Dec. 13 and 14, and then a snow day Feb. 2.

The current state law allows for only three snow days per year. A prospective bill in the legislature would increase the allotted calamity days per year to five. At press time, the change had passed the Ohio Senate and was mired in the House of Representatives.

Freeman said that he is anticipating the change but "I don't like to answer hypothetical questions."

The change back to five calamity days is less important to Shaker. Whether the law is changed or not, Shaker will not prolong the school year as Shaker students attend 185 school days, five more days than the state requires.

Freshman Noah Garson shared his feelings on Freeman's apparent change of philosophy.

"We would always be the only school left open with all the other schools closed, which was so annoying, but now we close with everyone else and finally get the break from school that we have always wanted," Garson said.

Paul Kelly, a history teacher, commutes to school



Michelle Scharfstein

SENIORS DYLAN MERRIMAN and Kadeem Evans enjoy the frosty weather on the Feb. 25 snow day.

from Brecksville. On an average day, it takes him about 25 minutes, but on a snowy day, it can take him up to an hour and a half to get to school.

In past years, there were many times that he was already on his way when school was called off, but he said, "This year has been really good."

The weather is different between here and Brecksville so when it is fine weather in Shaker, it can be terrible conditions in Brecksville, or vice versa.

"There have been two days where I have turned

around," Kelly said.

Minus an explanation for the newly liberal approach to cancelling school, students and adults have speculated about what triggered Freeman's change of heart. Was it threat of a lawsuit? A change of heart? A feeling of guilt?

Seniors such as Rosa Katz attribute Freeman's new approach in part to a minor automotive misfortune he suffered during on a particularly snowy day years ago.

"I think he learned his lesson from the day he [Freeman] said we would still have school when everyone else cancelled and then he got into an accident," Katz said.

Freeman has been superintendent since 1989, a total of 27 years. Ohio law requires superintendents to play the major role in determining if school will close due to weather-related causes, but Freeman also said that there are other people involved in the decision such as other administrators and school officials.

Freeman said that the first and most important factor to look at when deciding if school will close is the safety of students and staff.

Weather, anticipated weather, conditions of roads, sidewalks, schools, parking lots, buses, height of snow and wind chill all play a role in the decision.

"All four cancellations of school this year met these criteria . . . there was no doubt in closing," Freeman said.

Freeman disagreed with the statement that Shaker often stays open when many other schools close, saying the district often closes with other schools.

By way of explanation, Freeman and Caldwell pointed to heightened press coverage of weather closings.

"I think that there is an incredible amount of media activity about school closings. Therefore, in the past years, we have paid greater attention to the amount of schools open around us," Freeman said.

"Expectations have changed as consequences of competition [between news channels]," Caldwell said.

Freeman said the decision to close school is not made lightly.

"Many people lose a lot of sleep over this issue," he said.

Winter gave Freeman one more challenge March 11, when conditions were very similar to those that forced the Feb. 25 closing. In the minds of students, Freeman won that battle, as school remained open that day.

FLAKES FLEW, AND SO DID RUMORS

When Superintendent Mark Freeman decided to keep Shaker's doors open March 11, rumors of Shaker school buses flipping over on slick streets and crashing into stop signs spread quickly. Director of Communications Peggy Caldwell denied that any accidents happened. "[The bus] could have grazed into a stop sign," Caldwell said. She said that she contacted the district's transportation department and that they did not report any incidents.

Compiled by Ilana Kramer and Dana Finley




Recycle Your Closet for Cold Ca\$h!

Check out Plat's Closet Beachwood!
Plat's Closet Beachwood wants the Shaker Raiders to recycle their closets for CASH! We buy and sell gently used guys and girls clothes, shoes and accessories from all your favorite brands. You'll look great and your wallet will feel even better!

Plat's Closet Beachwood
20000 Chagrin Blvd. Beachwood, OH 44122
(440) 449-7580
www.platsclosetbeachwood.com

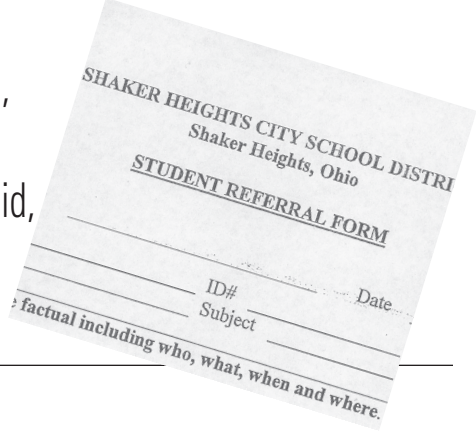
PLAT'S CLOSET

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association



Professionals Dedicated To Educating
Shaker's Youth

The Shaker Schools Strategic Plan specifies a 10 percent decrease in referrals, expulsions and suspensions each year as an effort to improve the student experience. Vic Ferrel, head of security, thinks that the goal is reasonable. He said, “Hopefully, it forces us to work with the kid more and find some alternatives to suspension. Hopefully, it just asks the principal to get more creative.”



SHAKER TEACHERS PROTEST in Strongsville March 15. This event was one of 13 that happened simultaneously across the state in protest of SB 5, which would restrict collective bargaining, eliminate tenure and introduce merit based payment for all teachers. The bill would also allow local governments to have final say in any labor dispute. Currently, such conflicts are resolved by a neutral party. Public workers including teachers, firefighters and police officers gathered at the protest, along with others who oppose the bill. According to The Strongsville Post, approximately 1,000 people attended the rally. If passed, the law would affect more than 350,000 public workers. The protest took place during a cold rain, but the number of attendees exceeded the 600 or so who attended a Strongsville protest March 7, after the bill passed by the Ohio Senate by one vote March 2. “The future for me from this bill would be devastating,” said Aimee Grey, an English teacher who attended the rally. “It’s not going to fix the budget. Of course it would help, but there are other things that they could attack.”



Aimee Grey

Shaker teachers join protest against SB 5, which would limit union negotiations, end tenure



The Post Newspapers

PROTESTORS RALLIED IN rainy Strongsville March 15. SB 5, which Gov. Kasich claims would save Ohio governments \$1 billion, would allow school boards to decide any labor impasse.

BY SARAH-JANE LORENZO
CAMPUS AND CITY EDITOR

Senate Bill 5, which is expected to be approved by the Ohio house and signed by Gov. John Kasich in early April would significantly affect Shaker teachers.

Among other things, the bill would limit collective bargaining rights, eliminate teacher tenure, tie salary increases to merit and revoke right to strike for all public employees. It would also require public employees to pay at least 15 percent of their insurance costs.

In addition, Kasich’s proposed state budget would increase teacher’s pension contributions by 5 percent in the next two years. Shaker teachers currently pay 8 percent of their health care premiums, and 10 percent of their salary goes toward retirement benefits. The school board pays an amount equal to 14 percent of a teacher’s salary toward retirement also.

According to the Shaker Heights Teachers’ Association February Newsletter, the SB 5 and the budget could reduce Shaker teachers’ take-home pay by 26 percent, assuming the board continues to pay teachers their current salaries.

Teachers have reacted strongly to the proposals.

“I feel that it is important that I have more than a living wage,” said history teacher Andrew Glasier. “Even in the community that I teach in, I don’t live here, but I should be able to live here. We’re



“We’re looking at trying to solve our fiscal problems that were not created by public employees and putting it all on public employees.” Anthony Cuda, history teacher



“I see it as a political maneuver and I really think that it is about power. It is about a political party trying to gain the upper hand by taking away the rights and the power of the political party in opposition of them.” Aimee Grey, English teacher

going from middle class to working class because of this bill. I seriously have to reconsider my career.”

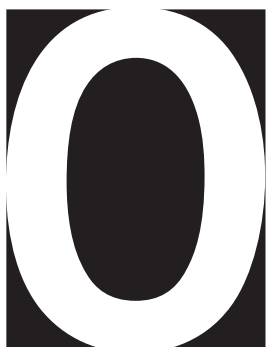
Government estimates suggest SB 5 could save state and local governments more than a \$1 billion. The bill would affect unionized state workers, firefighters and police officers as well.

Anthony Cuda, history teacher, believes that SB 5 is targeting the wrong group. “We’re looking at trying to solve our fiscal problems that were not created by public employees and putting it all on public employees.

“If Ohio is in fiscal trouble, everybody needs to pitch in to fix the problem. Senate Bill 5 threatens 100 years of middle class progress.”

“These are the people who are sacrificing their lives, and we’re saying, ‘We’re paying you too much.’ The reason that they attack teachers, firefighters and policemen is because we’re so busy we can’t do anything to protest.”

French teacher Suzanne Gyurgyik



Opinion



Keep calm and carry on

April 1, 2011. The date we've been waiting for since the start of this college frenzy: D-Day, or Decision Day.

The next four years could be spent at any one of the various colleges we've applied to, and it all depends on the decision letters, or e-mails in most cases, that should arrive in our respective mailboxes around that date.

As we await our fates, it's easy to worry constantly, obsessively going over our applications and secretly comparing ourselves to statistics and Shaker students alike (well, at least one of us is). To a certain degree, that does happen, and there are moments of insecurity when you can't help but despair over the fact that your reach school is just that: out of your grasp. Though an optimistic attitude is always best, we've had our fair share of depressing moments while comparing ourselves to the unsurpassable National Merit Finalist or all-star athlete who's bound to be more appealing to whatever university we applied to.

But this column isn't about the worries or stress that accompany every college applicant. It's about the big picture. While it's hard to see when you're entangled in the whole process, there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Even if your dream school rejects you with the always sentimental "We regret to inform you" letter, others will invite you to join their communities.

As cliché as it may sound, we've come to realize that it's most definitely not the school that makes the student. No matter what school you choose to attend, or which school chooses you, the decision does not define you.

Going to an Ivy League school doesn't make you a better person (no matter how much the media or our culture suggest it will) and attending a community college in no way labels you as subpar.

Every individual can do what he or she chooses with education or post high school plans, and letting our society's idea of success get in the way of that is just stupid.

Every university has something special to offer a student, whether it's their awesome location in the heart of the city, their accomplished biology department, their unique research opportunities, or their great co-op program. And every student, in turn, has individual qualities and characteristics to bring to a new campus and student body.

So, as we wait to pounce on the computer as the clock strikes 5 p.m. on March 30, we have to keep in mind that the world will still turn if we get a few "No, thank you's". We'll go to college, somewhere that wants us for our many talents (and our money, but that's another column).

Instead of spending the next week worrying, relax and take a deep breath: it'll be alright.



Dana Finley



Victoria Fydrych

A mysterious development

We've learned to accept (and expect) the worst when it comes to snow days. But this year, instead of one measly snow day called the day after every other school is closed, we've enjoyed four legitimate calamity closures. We know global warming continues, but, come on, the weather hasn't gotten that much worse. Something has changed; see what on page 2.



Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

SB5: EVERY TEACHER LEFT BEHIND?

One of the first life lessons we learn at school is how to set long-term goals. Well, the same state that sponsored that lesson is antagonizing the teachers who taught it and setting a bad example as well.

Ohio's Senate Bill 5, which was proposed by Republican Senator Shannon Jones, would prohibit public employees, including public school teachers, from collective bargaining and strikes. Collective bargaining allows employees in a given field to negotiate for working conditions, benefits or wages as a group, which holds sway over the employer. Although SB 5 does not prohibit unionization, unions prohibited to collectively bargain or strike would have little ability to advocate for their members.

Furthermore, if SB 5 takes affect with the same provisions as it passed through the senate, teachers would be paid based on merit rather than their experience or education attained.

Although SB 5 does not currently specify how merit would be determined, it's inevitable that students' performance on standardized state tests will pay a significant role. If you thought the OGT was a miserable sophomore ritual, just wait until you have to take similar tests in every subject, every year. And this time, your teachers' professional and personal lives will depend on your performance. No pressure.

A teacher's salary is not equivalent to a doctor's, but both should be based on the professional's level of education, competence and years of experience. Although a student's individual achievements are frequently a good measure of a teacher's success, standardized test scores are not.

Shaker teachers will tell you that they exchange good ideas with one another all the time – it's called collegiality, and it's similar to the way classmates study together. But competition compromises collaboration. If a salary, or a job, is hanging in the balance, the exchange

of ideas is likely to stop. Without teachers building on one another's work, students will suffer by not having the best education possible.

Right now, Shaker teachers can earn tenure if they have worked in the district for three years, have earned a master's degree, and have been recommended for tenure by an administrator who has evaluated the teacher. SB5 would eliminate tenure.

The majority of teachers with tenure have it for good reason. Every student has disliked a teacher. Tenure exists to protect teachers from a malicious student, or the parent who feels that his or her child deserved an A. It allows teachers to critique school policies or administrators without fearing for their jobs. Tenured teachers have significant experience and perspective that helps both students and the school.

We understand that given the current economic situation, budget cuts are necessary. However, the state is disregarding both its future economy and its future leaders.

Even if SB 5 would save the state money in the short term, the long-term consequences would be disastrous. Think about it – as a whole, Ohio's public employees will most likely suffer pay cuts. It's the beginning of a butterfly effect. A large portion of the middle class will have less spending power, hurting businesses owners and employees.

And the economy continues to collapse, despite the omnipresent attempts at cutting the budget.

There seems to be a disconnect between the current budget and current education standards. The two don't seem to be able to go hand in hand, but the future budget and future education are definitely correlated.

If experienced, higher-paid teachers are laid off to make room for inexperienced, lower-paid teachers, we could get to the point where students, the future leaders, won't receive an adequate education. With incompetent leaders, the recession continues.

In essence, it's a choice: the finance of today vs. the education of tomorrow.

For more information on SB 5, see Campus and City, Page 3



A SOCIAL MEDIA REVOLUTION

In Egypt, Facebook users engineer progress online

BY LIZ JACOB
STAFF REPORTER

Did Facebook bring Mubarak down? Does the Internet topple a dictator, or do the oppressed bring down the oppressor? As the recent uprising in Egypt has shown, individuals armed with virtual means of communication have the power to organize the masses to jumpstart a powerful insurrection.

Few would disagree that Facebook users have a justifiable reputation for superficial communication and self-infatuation. After all, the typical user logs in, stalks the newsfeed, updates his or her status with a random, trivial song lyric and creeps through a new photo album documenting a weekend's worth of adventures in shopping, drinking or flirting.

But if you had logged on to Facebook in Egypt during the revolution, you would have instead found plans for protests, groups advocating for the pro-democracy movement and pictures depicting the injustices the government inflicted upon the protesters. It's shocking to realize that as you write on a friend's wall, protests are being planned and a movement is gaining support in the Middle East -- all through something as ordinary as Facebook.

According to CNN.com, only 2 percent of Egypt's population actually has reliable Internet access. However, one third of the Egyptian population is under the age of 15, and Internet use is becoming more extensive. While the government under Mubarak suppressed most dissident activities by using a secret police force and restricting the media, Facebook and other social networking sites allowed the pro-democracy Egyptians to engineer and organize a victorious revolution. The Egyptian insurrection continued and gained support even though the Internet and texting were disabled for a week.

In past revolutions, restrictive governments took away basic human rights such as the right to assembly and the right to free trial. In Egypt, Twitter was the first "human" right taken from the Egyptian people. If Twitter is the most important tool for revolution, then maybe it's time that more of the Shaker starts tweeting.



<http://tinyurl.com/4ltwp6n>

Would an Internet kill-switch disturb America?

BY RACHEL SHAW
OPINION EDITOR

What about in America? Recent legislation proposed by Sen. John Rockefeller (D-VA) and Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) would give the president power to shut off the nation's Internet when national security is at risk.

This means that the president could shut down Facebook and Twitter.

Or, he could take the ban further and restrict news sites such as CNN and BBC, disconnecting Americans from the world.

And if a president wanted just to be mean, he might even restrict online shopping, or, even worse, iTunes.

Although the Federal Communications Commission has the power to regulate free broadcasting, it does not have the power to censor cable TV, satellite radio or the Internet. And while a majority of the American public might be able to look past censored AM radio, restricting online shopping would most definitely cross the line. But, who knows?

If anti-government conspiracies are

being sewn into the linings of clothing, it would all be worth it.

Giving the president this power would seriously limit personal rights; the proposed bill doesn't clearly define how far the president's authority extends when it comes to how much he will be able to control online.

Mubarak's biggest mistake may have been restoring the Internet within six days to avoid additional bad press. When he returned the Internet to the Egyptians, he ensured his own resignation, which he announced Feb. 11.

"Our revolution is complete," Ali Aboutera, a 26-year-old computer programmer told the Wall Street Journal. "We have achieved the Egyptian dream."

But what about the American dream? If America is the land of the free, that includes the freedom to post as many statuses and like as many pictures as the heart desires. True, Facebook was restricted in Egypt because of much grander goals, but Americans do have the right to peacefully protest. Unlike the Egyptians, we also have unrestricted free speech.

It often seems insignificant, but Facebook is a freedom. Like all freedoms, Facebook is one that should never be taken away from the American people.



<http://tinyurl.com/4kwg3s5>

March Sadness

Three high school athletes died in March. Robert Garza, a junior, died after collapsing during a timeout at an AAU basketball tournament in Austin. Wes Leonard, a Michigan junior, died from a heart attack after scoring a game-winning layup to ensure a 20-0 season. Colorado rugby player Matthew Hammerdorfer, 17, suffered a heart attack after taking a hit during a game.

KYRA HALL



Raider Zone



TOP 5 OHSAA UNIFORM REGULATIONS

“OHSAA has good intentions to get everyone to look the same and have traditional uniforms.”

Mike Babinec
Head Baseball Coach

The Process

The Ohio High School Athletic Association requires Ohio coaches to go through a preseason meeting every year to cover rule changes, umpires, referees and what adjustments to expect. This year, however, coaches were given the option to look at a PowerPoint covering material instead of attending the meeting. If any slides are skipped during the PowerPoint, the coach will not receive credit.

Who Makes The Rules?

Who knew that the base and the tip of a football cleat must be parallel, and the free end may be rounded in an arc with a radius of not less than 7/16 inch provided the overall length is not more than 1/2 inch measured from the tip of the cleat to the shoe? The Ohio High School Athletic Association’s guidelines for uniforms have very precise measurements. OHSAA was unable to provide an explanation for their measurements’ specificity, nor could they provide insight into their rule-making process.



1 Swimming:

“No swimsuits made with zippers or other fastening systems.”

Darn. I just bought the cutest belt.

2 Baseball:

“A uniform shall not have any dangerous or reflective buttons or ornaments.”

Oh, man! How else am I going to distract the pitcher?



3 Soccer:

“Shoes must be worn by all participants.”

Oh really? I thought it'd be a lot easier to run down the field in flippers.

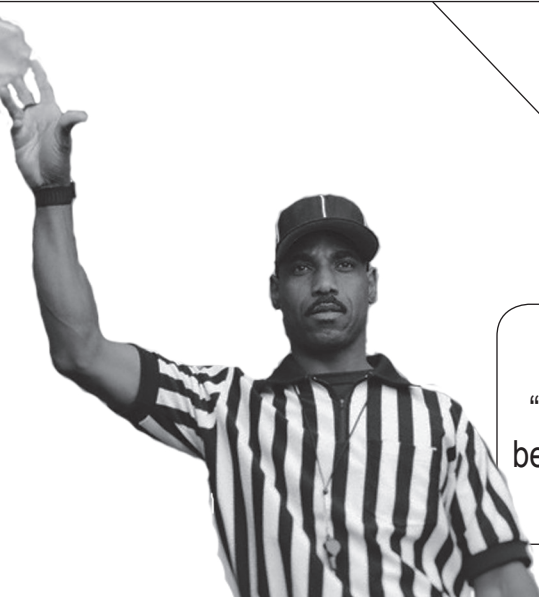
WHAT NOT TO WEAR

4 X-country and Track and Field:

“The use of socks and slippers do not meet the requirements.”



How do you run in slippers, anyway?



5 Football:

“The cleat wall must be at least 3/16 inch in diameter.”

So, the referees carry around rulers?



Spotlight

Shaker alumnae play Grog Shop

Allie Levin ('10) played the Grog Shop March 12 as a guest cellist for the band The Ridges. The chamber folk rock group was formed last April by its three core members, Talor Smith ('09), Victor Rasgaitis and Johnny Barton, who often invite friends to play with them. "It's a really great concept because every chance they get they bring in auxiliary musicians to play with them," Levin said.

7 THE SHAKERITE • 25 MARCH 2011



The Ridges core members Talor Smith, Victor Rasgaitis and Johnny Barton.

www.reverbnation.com

JUNIOR THOMAS STARGELL portrays the host of the TV show "Soul Train." The vignette used the show's Scramble Board feature to convey facts about an inventor while the rest of the cast played the show's audience and guessed the correct inventor's name. The Sankofa production comprised about 95 students, including stage hands and band members. Sankofa leaders began to plan in October, with practices beginning every day after school for one to three hours from December until the last week of February, including some five-hour weekend practices.

BELOW: SENIOR ANDREW Castleberry plays electric guitar. Senior Andre Tarver sings during the "Soul Train" vignette.



AN INVENTIVE APPROACH TO HISTORY

Despite snow, sound and audience snark, Sankofa celebrates African-American inventors

CANDACE CUNARD • GRISTMILL

BY DEVIN PARRY
SPOTLIGHT EDITOR

Although snow drifted on Sankofa's parade for the second consecutive year, Shaker's Feb. 25 Black History Month performance boasted singing, dancing and theatrical elements that delivered a message about African-American ingenuity.

The performance, held the last Friday of February each year in the Large Auditorium, is a student-run production advised by art teacher Keaf Holliday.

The Sankofa symbol -- represented by a bird flying forward while looking back -- was displayed on fliers promoting the production throughout the school, and its meaning reflects the show's purpose. The bird signifies the obligation to "go forward and reclaim our past so we can move forward; so we can understand why and how we came to be who we are today."

With this advice in mind, each year's Sankofa performance promotes a theme involving black history. This year's theme was "Reflecting on Our Inventors" and several vignettes delivered information about notable black inventors throughout the two-hour performance.

In one such scene, senior De'Jah McDonald, portraying a nurse working at a blood drive, talked about Charles R. Drew, who developed the technique for long-term preservation of blood plasma used in blood banks today.

The production also included two vignettes inspired by the "Soul Train Scramble Board," a feature of the TV variety show "Soul Train" that showcased African-American talent in the fields of dance and vocals from the early 70s until 2006. Junior Thomas Stargell, wearing a 70s-worthy afro wig, portrayed the show's host, and other students, the audience. Stargell asked them questions about a famous black inventor and, after a dance interlude audience members guessed the inventor's name and wrote it on a whiteboard. One inventor profiled was Garrett Morgan, inventor of the traffic signal.

During the "Soul Train" scenes, senior Andre Tarver's solo was interrupted by microphone failure, but after a short intermission the problem was fixed, and Tarver redid the number smoothly. The technical glitch that affected Tarver's performance was the most severe of the evening. Throughout the show, inconsistent microphone volume at times obscured the performers' efforts. In spite of the technical problems, the cast's talents were apparent.

Technical problems were perhaps unavoidable. Because school was closed for

weather Feb. 25, the Sankofa cast performed without having completed a run-through before a student assembly audience for the second consecutive year. The show's debut at the assembly provides a preview of what the show will contain that night. Because school closings have nixed the assemblies, according to Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson, Sankofa has not reached its target audience: the student body and faculty.

"The assembly piece is important because it brings together the entire school and allows our school community to benefit from the production," Hutchinson said.

Typically, the production's Friday night and Saturday afternoon audiences include many friends and family of the cast. Sankofa's message is only able to reach the entire student body during the annual assembly.

Aside from microphone failure, the portion of the show intended to put across its message was a large step up from last year's performance, whose theme was "Follow Your Dreams." While last year's performance was hard to follow, this year's informative facts about key players in black history were more clearly conveyed.

By far the only disappointing part of the Friday night show had nothing to do with the performers. The audience's behavior -- screaming, shouting and talking over the actors -- made the vignettes' dialogue nearly inaudible. Shouts of "Don't clap for her" and homophobic slurs obscured Sankofa's message. Perhaps the educational elements don't hold some people's interest as much as the singing and dancing acts do, but no performer on the high school stage deserves such hostility and abuse.

Unfortunately, the balance between the informative and the talent show aspects of the production is unequal. A more equitable balance between the two would allow students both to demonstrate their extraordinary talents and also promote an important message about Black History Month to their audience.

5 minute



critic



CANDACE CUNARD • GRISTMILL

CANDACE CUNARD • GRISTMILL

NEW STAGES 29



PLAYWRIGHT
Izzy Storm



PLAYWRIGHT
Allegra Verlezza



PLAYWRIGHT
Josh Barnett



PLAYWRIGHT
Graham Fine



PLAYWRIGHT
Natalie Vicchio

BEFORE YOU FALL

WRITTEN BY IZZY STORM

DIRECTED BY SABRINA PASKIEWITZ

"Directing is like storytelling brought to life. Making sure that the words of the playwright are brought to the audience is the main component."

- Paskewitz

Before You Fall is set in an eating disorder facility where bulimic character Sam attempts to convince the recovering Charlotte to leave the facility and go back to her old ways.

ACTRESS
Brianna Stack
Tammy

ACTOR
Grant Johnson
Nate

ACTOR
Josh Tallman
Keith

ACTRESS
Kari Semel
Jess

ACTOR
Walter Stamm
Edd

ACTRESS
Zoe Davidson
Sammy

Edd's is a play about Nate's experience of going to Edd's Diner to interview for the position of a server. There he meets Jess, the busboy who is a cynical, grungy girl often mistaken for a boy. Edd, the 87-year-old owner, is a creepy, mostly mute man who makes his interviewees uncomfortable. Tammy and Sammy, the bubbly twin servers, often talk in sync and are madly in love with the narcissistic manager, Keith. The play features techno music, rave lighting and dungeons.

The Guy on the Couch

WRITTEN BY JOSH BARNETT

DIRECTED BY TARAN BROWN

"Our cast is very tight... We really just got to know each other as humans and as actors. We learned to respect each other's opinions or thoughts, we never shoot anyone down or feel like things are unfair."

- Brown

The Guy on the Couch is a comedy about friendship, love and finding support in unexpected places. Richard is your typical middle-aged businessman who is facing lots of stress from work. When he decides to call off sick and encounters a stranger sleeping on his couch, things quickly spiral out of control as the two men clash: The Guy on the Couch wants nothing more than to be wanted, and Richard only wants him gone.

ACTRESS
Mackenzie Taylor
Pamela

ACTOR
Matt Reesing
Mark

ACTRESS
Rachel Shafran
Janice

Turkey is a comedy about two drastically different women, Janice and Pamela, both on the hunt for a Thanksgiving turkey. Aided by the trusty supermarket employee Mark, the two women fight their way to Thanksgiving.

THE WORLD SPINS MADLY ON

WRITTEN BY NATALIE VICCHIO

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL THOMAS

"A close connection with the writer is the most valuable thing you can have. They are the ones who have been with the plays since the beginning and they are the ones who know it best."

- Thomas

Ramona Sears hasn't seen her brother, Grayer, in more than eight years. She started receiving letters from Grayer's fiancé, Annette Ryan, only a few months prior to Grayer's tragic death. Not hearing a response from Ramona, Annette decides to pay her a visit and convince her to come to her estranged brother's funeral.

ACTRESS
Alexa Kaups
Anette

ACTRESS
Rebecca Smith
Ramona

WRITTEN BY GRAHAM FINE

DIRECTED BY JONAH WEINSTEIN

"Communication is crucial. Along with my assistant, Kristen Leonard, Graham Fine and I have been on the same page since day one."

- Weinstein

STAGE 3 (BLACK BOX THEATER)